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Letter dated 20 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a note verbale, dated 21 August 2001, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Tehran (see annex), concerning the blockage of water flow into the Hirmand River in the Islamic Republic of Iran, causing enormous damage to the agriculture and animal husbandry of the people in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Tehran, and pursuant to its note dated 30 December 2000, concerning the blockage of water flow into the Hirmand River in the Islamic Republic of Iran, has the honour to state the following:

On 27 December 2000 water began to flow, in a small quantity, in the said river towards the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, it was blocked once again on 16 March 2001. The blockage of water flow into the Hirmand River, which began on 8 March 2000 and continues to date, has caused tremendous damage to the agriculture and the animal husbandry of the people in the region. They are facing even great difficulties in securing drinking water supplies. Moreover, the internationally recognized wetland of Hamun has been completely dried out. It has to be emphasized in this regard that, in accordance with the 1973 Treaty on Hirmand concluded between the two countries, Afghanistan is bound to provide Iran with 26 cubic metres of water per second on average. In a joint inspection carried out by two technical teams from Iran and Afghanistan in July 2000 at the Kajaki dam and the hydrometric station at Dehrawud, which is a base for the measurement of water in the Hirmand River, the two teams jointly concluded that the flow of water in the hydrometric station at Dehrawud was 46.8 cubic metres per second and that Kajaki dam had 1 billion cubic metres of water in reserve. The inspection team also observed that the main cause of water blockage was the closure of the gates of the Kajaki dam, which prevented the flow of water towards Iran. Furthermore, information and evidence obtained through satellite photographs indicate that the amount of water in the upper reach of the Hirmand River has been considerably increased in comparison to the previous year.

Considering the above-mentioned points and invoking article V of the 1973 Treaty on Hirmand, which stipulates: "Afghanistan agrees that it shall take no action to deprive Iran totally or partially of its water right to the water of the Hirmand River as fixed and delimited by the provisions of articles II, III and IV of this Treaty", the Islamic Republic of Iran urges that the Hirmand waters be permitted to flow through the shared Parian River. Iran reserves its right to seek compensation for the damage inflicted by the breach of the said Treaty and the blockage of the Hirmand waters and will take all steps at its disposal to ensure the utilization of its water rights.